Artists Ligorano/Reese Debut Fiber Optic Tapestry at ITAB: International TECHstyle Art Biennial for the Zer01 Biennial

San Jose Quilts and Textiles Museum  
520 S. First Street, San Jose CA 95113  
August 17 – October 31, 2010

Opening reception: Sunday, August 22, 2-4pm  
Zer01 Opening September 16

Artists Nora Ligorano and Marshall Reese have made a new media art form they call *The Fiber Optic Tapestry*. The fiber optic panels are woven on a handloom and attached to a custom made, computer controlled, lighting system, which displays information from the internet onto the tapestry’s surface.

The tapestry parses information from Twitter and other data sources to display color, light and pattern onto woven fiber optic panels using RGB LEDs. The resulting real time animation is an abstract, data visualization that continually updates as data changes. “It’s like weaving information,” Marshall Reese says, “we wanted to make a textile using contemporary communication materials and processes, to redefine the role of a tapestry in contemporary culture.”

“Weaving epitomizes social interaction,” for Nora Ligorano, “Textiles have a shared history throughout the world’s cultures and are common throughout time. In European culture, medieval tapestries tell narratives, and in the 21st century, we find our stories threaded and networked throughout the web. *The Fiber Optic Tapestry* is an art form about networking, communication, and society.”

The artists are presenting *50 Different Minds* at the San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. The piece measures 50 by 50 inches. It displays patterns and colors that relate to Twitter Tweets of color words. It also uses air traffic data from the nine busiest airports in the U.S. Horizontal and vertical lines on the
tapestry’s surface move in realtime, synchronized with the longitude and latitude of arriving and departing flights.

Visitors can also interact with the tapestry by tweeting additive and subtractive color names. The tapestry is programmed to display colors in response to tweets written using the expression #optictapestry and then color words.

For more information see: Fiber Optic Tapestry on Kickstarter.com http://kck.st/bHBzvW

Ligorano/Reese
NORA LIGORANO and MARSHALL REESE have collaborated together as Ligorano/Reese since the early 80’s. They make limited edition multiples, videos, sculptures and installations and exhibited at the Cleveland Museum of Art, Museum fur Angewandte Kunst (MAK) in Frankfurt, Germany, MIT MediaLab, Museum of Arts & Design, the Neuberger Museum of Art, Schroder Romero Gallery, Kent Gallery, ZER01, Eyebeam, The Kitchen, the Sculpture Center, and Lincoln Center.

They have received fellowships and funding from the Jerome Foundation, the Fulbright Commission, NYFA, NYSCA, the NEA and Art Matters. They have been artists in residence at the Montalvo Arts Center, Djerassi Resident Artists Program, and the MacDowell Colony. Their work is in the collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, SFMOMA, The Getty Research Center, Clark Institute, Yale University, and private collections. Ligorano/Reese’s edition work is represented by Jim Kempner Fine Art in New York.

ITAB: International TECHstyle Art Biennial
ITAB is a juried exhibition of work by artists mining the expressive potential of combining fiber media with new information and communication technologies in their artistic processes, in the content of their work and as a mean of artistic expression.

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